

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 124623
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF:WBEDMONDSON/D
APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB
AF:TWSEELYE
S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH
D:DLAMB

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O 302010Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124623

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: RH, PFOR

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN RAID INTO MOZAMBIQUE

1. AMBASSADOR SHOULD APPROACH RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVE HAWKINS AND ASK HIM TO CONVEY TO SMITH OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE RHODESIAN RAID INTO MOZAMBIQUE. (LATEST INFORMATION WE HAVE IS AFP REPORT THAT RHODESIANS HAVE ADMITTED ATTACKING BASES AROUND MAPAI, 55 MILES INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE.)

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2. YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN YOUR CONVERSATION WITH HAWKINS:

A. EVERY RHODESIAN EFFORT TO STRIKE BEYOND ITS BORDERS WHETHER IN HOT PURSUIT, RETRIBUTION, OR PREEMPTION HEIGHTENS THE TREND TOWARD ESCALATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION ON THE MILITARY SIDE OF THE CONFLICT.

B. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WE ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN OFFERS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR A SECURE AND PEACEFUL FUTURE FOR ALL RHODESIANS. IT IS BECAUSE OF OUR DEEP COMMITMENT TO PEACE THAT WE FEEL COMPELLED TO CONVEY TO YOU OUR CONCERN.

C. WHETHER OR NOT SUCH ACTIONS FRIGHTEN THE NATIONALISTS OR INSTILL CAUTION IN THEIR OWN MILITARY OPERATIONS, IT CONVINCES THEM ALL THE MORE THAT BECAUSE OF WHITE RHODESIAN INTRANSIGENCE, NEGOTIATION IS USELESS AND THAT ONLY THE MILITARY STRUGGLE WILL BRING THE CHANGE THEY SEEK.

D. IN THE LONG RUN--PROBABLY NOT AS LONG AS THE WHITE RHODESIANS THINK--THE RHODESIANS WILL LOSE A MILITARY STRUGGLE, FIRST LOSING THEIR ABILITY TO CONTROL THEIR BORDERS AND MAINTAIN A SATISFACTORY LEVEL OF SECURITY INSIDE THE COUNTRY.

E. WHATEVER THE PURPOSE OF THESE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE--WHETHER TO BUY TIME, STRENGTHEN MORALE AND WILLINGNESS TO RESIST AT HOME, OR CREATE AN ILLUSION OF STRENGTH FOR BARGAINING PURPOSES--THE EFFECT OF STRENGTHENING THE NATIONALISTS' DETERMINATION TO PRESS AHEAD WITH WARFARE IS THE SAME.

F. THE MORE THIS CONTINUES THE LESS--NOT MORE--ARE THE CHANCES OF ACHIEVING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT THAT WILL BENEFIT ALL THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE.

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G. IF ESCALATION BRINGS MORE EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT, THE SMITH REGIME MUST REALIZE THAT THE WEST WILL NOT INTERVENE ON THE SIDE OF THE WHITES; IF ANYTHING, WE MAY HAVE TO INCREASE PRESSURES AGAINST THEM.

H. RECENT RHODESIAN STATEMENTS COMPLAINING ABOUT STRENGTHENING SANCTIONS ARE NOT HELPFUL AND IN ANY EVENT MISS THE POINT THAT IT IS THE WEST THAT IS PRESSING THE SANCTIONS ROUTE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO WARFARE. UNLESS RHODESIANS REALIZE THAT THEY MUST COOPERATE TO ACHIEVE A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT AS PEACEFULLY AS POSSIBLE, THEY ARE DOOMED TO FACE THE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE MILITARY ALTERNATIVE.

3. YOU SHOULD INFORM THE SAG THROUGH FOURIE OF THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR APPROACH TO SMITH AND ASK THAT THE SAG SUPPORT OUR REPRESENTATION IN AN APPROPRIATE FASHION. CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 01 STATE 124623 TOSEC 050031
ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:S. GOLDSMITH

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:S.GOLDSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124623 TOSEC 050031

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 124623 ACTION CAPE TOWN INFO DAR ES
SALAAM GABORONE JOHANNESBURG LONDON LUSAKA MAPUTO PRETORIA
MAY 30, 1977

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124623

EXDIS

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